

# MaineNet/Partnership Summary

(Summary by Brenda Schmitthenner)

The state of Maine is implementing a system called MaineNet to improve the coordination and integration of primary, acute and LTC services. This system relies on a partnership between the beneficiary, the primary care physician and the “Care Partner”. The Care Partner is a degreed nurse with relevant clinical experience who is assigned to and located at the primary physician’s practice to facilitate a close working relationship.

Enrollment in MaineNet is voluntary and the eligibility is as follows:

- Adults aged 18 and older who are SSI disabled or adults who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid

To be eligible for MaineNet Partnership, a subprogram that includes a case management component for high-risk participants, beneficiaries must be receiving home and community based services. Beneficiaries in this program are assigned a Care Partner who with the primary physician is responsible for implementing the care plan associated with the beneficiaries LTC needs. The Care Partner is responsible for:

- Meeting the ongoing medical needs of the beneficiary
- Assisting in the integration of services which support their plan of care
- Visiting the beneficiary at least once a year to evaluate their plans of care
- Ensuring effective communication between the beneficiary, their providers, and other caregivers

Implementation of this system in Maine is expected to reduce the number of different providers beneficiaries see and reduce prescription drug use. The Care Partner is pivotal

for the success or failure of this program. The new system is expected to be implemented some time this year. As this system evolves, it will be worth monitoring.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.state.me.us/dhs/beas/mainenet/](http://www.state.me.us/dhs/beas/mainenet/)